

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJECT: ECE: WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING

REF: GENEVA 659

1. IN PRINCIPLE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR REQUIRED ANNUAL ROTATION OF OFFICERS OF ALL ECE BODIES IN INTEREST OF WIDER DISPERSION OF OFFICEHOLDING PRIVILEGE AMONGST ECE MEMBERS MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO PRESENT SYSTEM WHERE OFFICERS OF VARIOUS BODIES HOLD OFFICE FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE PAST, CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL ROTATION HAS BEEN BURDENED BY SOVIET BLOC DEMAND FOR ASSURANCE IN WRITING THAT BLOC WOULD BE ENTITLED TO HOLD ALL OFFICES 50 PERCENT OF THE TIME, A PRIVILEGE WHICH BLOC HAS HERETOFORE ENJOYED ON BASIS OF UNWRITTEN TRADITION. PROPOSAL HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLICATED BY YUGOSLAV DEMAND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR YUGOSLAVIA TO HOLD EQUITABLE SHARE OF OFFICES AS NON-MEMBER OF EITHER EASTERN OR WESTERN BLOCS. LATTER DEMAND, IF GRANTED, MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHER STATES TO JOIN YUGOSLAVS IN DE FACTO THIRD BLOC. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESUMED ADVANTAGES OF SIMPLE ANNUAL ROTATION SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY GIVING FORMAL RECOGNITION TO PARITY OF 10 EASTERN MEMBERS (INCLUDING BYELORUSSIA AND UKRAINE) WITH 24

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WESTERN MEMBERS, NOR TO GRANTING SPECIAL STATUS TO

YUGOSLAVIA. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MAY THEREFORE FAVOR
ANNUAL ROTATION OF OFFICES WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

HOWEVER, IF SOVIET BLOC AND YUGOSLAVS STILL SEEKING
ASSURANCES SIMILAR TO THOSE NOTED ABOVE, U.S. REP SHOULD
STATE THAT MARGINAL BENEFITS OF ANNUAL ROTATION NOT
WORTH THE QUID PRO QUO DEMANDED. KISSINGER

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